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HARRIS LAWRENCE T
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ACTION APA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISC-00 HA-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-07 L-23 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02
SS-15 USIA-06 /066 W

EXCISE

R 131445Z JAN 78
FM AMCONSUL SAO PAULO
TO AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 8223
AMEMBASSY BRASILIA
C O N F I D E N T I A L SAC PAULO 0110
E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: SEUM, BR
SUBJ: HUMAN RIGHTS: CASE OF FLAVIO TAVARES
REF: MONTEVIDEO 5784

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR

REVIEWED BY L. M. S. DATE 2/7/78

PORTIONS DENIED AS INDICATED

B1 ED

1. [REDACTED] LATEST DEVELOPMENTS. JUDGE DID NOT DECIDE ON DEFENSE REQUEST TO HAVE CASE JUDGED DURING JANUARY JUDICIAL RECESS. LAWYERS IMMEDIATELY SUSPECTED THAT LACK OF PRIORITY TREATMENT WAS A WAY OF TAKING HEAT OFF GOU WITHOUT FREEING TAVARES. INSTEAD OF FOLLOWING THEIR FIRST INSTINCTS TO UNLEASH A PRESS CAMPAIGN AGAINST GOU FOR THIS MANEUVER, LAWYERS SENT JULIO CESAR MESQUITA, SON OF O ESTADO, TO BRASILIA

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2. MESQUITA WAS REPORTEDLY TOLD [REDACTED] WOULD SEE WHAT COULD BE DONE TO OBTAIN TAVARES EXPULSION FROM COUNTRY BEFORE JANUARY 25 VISIT OF PRESIDENT GEISEL. LAWYERS REPORTED FROM MONTEVIDEO JANUARY 12 THAT THEY HAD "GUARANTEES" THAT TAVARES WOULD BE FREED DURING FIRST WEEK IN FEBRUARY AND PLANNED TO RETURN TO SAO PAULO. HOWEVER, LAWYERS FEEL SOME CONCERN FOR TAVARES' SAFETY AND HAVE LEFT FAMILY MEMBERS WITH HIM SINCE THEY HAVE RECEIVED REPORTS THAT LEFT-WING GROUPS

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MIGHT TRY TO KILL TAVARES TO EMPASS GOU. TAVARES IS AT VICTORIA PLAZA HOTEL WITH TWO POLICE GUARDS.

3. COMMENT: IT APPEARS THAT GOU WOULD LIKE TO KEEP TAVARES UNTIL AFTER THE GEISEL VISIT EITHER TO CONTINUE THE INVESTIGATION OR TO AVOID APPEARANCE OF A JUDGMENT UNDER BRAZILIAN PRESSURE. GOB INTEREST, HOWEVER, IS IN HAVING TAVARES OUT OF THE COUNTRY WHEN GEISEL ARRIVES SO THAT PRESS WILL NOT MAKE THE TAVARES CASE THE CENTERPIECE OF PRESIDENT'S VISIT.

CHAFIN

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